Fensterwald-Wecht-Joling-McDonnell-Bob Smith press conference, University Club,
5/5/75 9:30 a.m. HW 5/5/75 p.m.

While I had not been told what this would be about, I had expected that Wecht would make a big deal about the brain and that he would rip off several of the long suppressed items that after long and vigorous effort I have forced delivered to me and thus to all who had just asked for them. I expeted also that the forensic-science academy, which Joling heads, would support a new investigation from previously published reports.

On the latter I was wrong. The academy itself has taken no such position, which did not come out until Joling was asked. I'll not know if I was right on the brain because Cyril did react to my strong letter. (Not only by avoiding me, not looking at me, etc.) I had told him to go into the brain and get splattered by it. I had not make a strong point of the Memo of Transfer, so he gave copies of that out, pretending that he was also responsible for the declassification, as his prepared press release says. He had said he would give out the tests, and he had said they were given to him (repeated in his talk), but he did not.

The indecency of all this did offend and anger me, but I had decided to play it cool and I did. After a couple of questions I asked him if he could clarify just how it is that after such vigorous efforts to suppress these items of evidence the government just now made them available, and was it no more than a voluntary act? He went off into a long harangue that responded to nothing. After an interval I rephrased the question, to which he again responded with a long irrelevancy and no response. After still another time, and again without making any direct reference to his dishonesty on all this, I said perhaps I had better clarify. Briefly I told the real story. And instead of saying and this fink is a real fink, I concluded that this made it apparent the disclosures were in response to my use of the law and not voluntary. Even then he failed to acknolwedge it. It would have to be a pretty obtuse reporter who didn't catch it.

Two TV crews were there, one NBC. Neither it not CBS used anything on the TV news. But I'll be surprised if it does not get a heavy radio pay based on no more than experts calling for a new investigation.

His press release, which says he did all this and is giving it out then and there, also discloses that without the interpretation ofthe figures he hasn't the slightest idea what it means. However, the stalwart did assure, emphasis added,"But regardless of what they show, for or against the Warren Commission, I shall say so."

Not bad with that morning's Post quoting me as saying they are against it. And the FBI.

He could not gracefully admit to himself that for all these years he has been lying about even the position Evelyn Lincoln had. Today he had here almost right, working on JFK library papers. But he immediately abandoned that for his earlier falsifications and added Bobby as signatory to the contract, also false.

This man is sick in the head. Thus and because of his expertise, dangerous.

I handed several reporters notes with my name and phone in the event they want the tests. I had a long talk with Willie, Dallas Morning News bureau chief, who told me that Joling, in the guise of another such "impartial" meeting, had actually been part of a promo for the movie Second Gun. He didn't like the trick. (Joling also has a side business to benefit from the publicity, so that makes it 100% with Smith's employment depending on Wecht.)

There were few questions and after the haranguing it didn't last long. Bud and Smith said nothing. I said nothing else because the call for an investigation is something I do not oppose. I decided against saying anything about the repetition of the anti-Kennedy propaganda because there seemed to be no or almost no print press reporters there and I did not want to increase the chance of its being used by attracting attention to it. The electronic media can use little and all believe the official propaganda that Bobby withheld and that it is not new.

My car was parked accross the street from the Post so I decided to see if Larnder wanted to be filled in on what happened. Neither he nor I knew that the

Post had used his story (obit page, Section 3, p. 6) until I phoned Lesar to tell him I was coming over. He told me. It surprised George, who had not seen it in the news sections. He was more surprised not to see it in the edition on his desk, the last. We checked others, found it was in them, and that one when the page was remade it was kept in. However, a new death pre-empted that space for the last edition.

I phoned the NYTimes desk from there, was switched to Crowdson, who knew my name (we have never spoken). he wants the spectro and BAA and is going to get copies from Lesar, who will make them

While I was walking with Lardner, Smith and McDonnell came into the newsroom and walked diagonally toward the back. After I finished with George I went back to speak to John Hanrahan. He told me that Smith had been to see him (if they did not meet earlier they did at Georgetown) and that he had taken them to the national desk, which would not use the story.

While I made it a point in all conversations to avoid seeming to have any interest in Lardner's personal attitude and know him from the past to be a skeptic since Garrison turned him off, I have the feeling that he is now persuaded that the whole thing is false and is going to come apart.

He said there is no mention of the spectro in his story because the desk had called him to ask him what it is and means and he had said, "Christ, that'll take 10 more inches and you'll kill the whole story, so just take reference to it out."

This is what they did. He chuckled in reading the piece and then told me this. As soon as he had he said now tell me what it is, so I did and he typed notes, considerably less than 10 inches!

Cyril still pretends that the stuff listed in the Memo was lost and nobody knows where it is now. The truth is that he is making this all up because he has been saying this all along. The transfer date shows where it was until that date and unless words mean nothing, the Memo shows where it has been since the transfer.

I have Lardner a copy and told him the actualities. Ditto for Gillie, to whom I pointed out that of all the items only one could be said to have been Kennedy property, which is true. Not as property but as medical records. The others were all federal property, by law.

Prior to the beginning Bud spoke to me, pleasantly. It turns out that he and/or someone in Congress is interested in Belin. There, I told him, I can help, with something simple and definitive that everyone has been missing. After what happened today I doubt he'll ask further. If he does, I'll tell him.

Lesar, who to Bud's knowledge is my lawyer in these matters, said he will use this as the long-awaited excuse to resign. He went into the indignant letter he plans to write as CTIA counsel. I suggested instead that because it can be alleged that this was not a CTIA function he use as an excuse that the entire matter presents him with a professional conflict he can't resolve except by resigning. And to leave it at that. He was not his usual placid self.

Cyril attacked the Rockefeller panel based on their connections and with that attacked other earlier panels, all justifiably. Except that he has overlooked that the Rock. boys have a limited jurisdiction. He has again played into their hands. Not by the attack itself but by ignoring the narrow focus they are required to take. Actually they have no jurisdiction. They have contrived one based on the Gregory foolishness.

I can't think of anything any one of them said, no matter how reasonable it seemed or was, that can't be used to discredit them all on the q.t. If they did not have seeming scientific credentials nobody would have been there and if anything is now rported, would not have been.

Today's Rockefeller session provide full opportunity for full denials on evening net TV news for authoritative denials. Out self-seekers sure have fed them lines!